

House Committee on Energy and Environment  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Room 453  
Salem Oregon 97301

Re: HB 4107

Honorable Representatives of the Committee,

My name is Bill Elzie and I am writing this letter in support of the measure proposed by the Sponsors of this Bill extending the Alternative Fuel Vehicle Revolving Fund Loan Program to Certain Private Entities, HB 4107.

I am a native Oregon citizen residing in Beaverton and presently a membership elected Business Agent for General Teamsters Local Union No. 162.

I have spent the past seventeen years as a Business Agent negotiating labor contracts in the private industry primarily involving commercial motor vehicles in the Portland metropolitan area and the twenty-one years before that as a professional truck driver. I see great value in giving our private Employers' an incentive to encourage alternative fueled commercial motor vehicle purchases or conversions of existing fleets.

Many of the Employers that the Teamsters deal with would like contribute to improving the air quality of our region by doing the best practices that their philosophies espouse, but it also has to pencil out on their finances or balance sheets.

Many of our Employers have suffered since 2007 as a result of this Great Recession we all have experienced. Employers went into a survival mode to endure. Some failed to survive. One of the first things our Employers experienced was their inability to replace their fleets of commercial motor vehicles because of little or no capital improvement allowances in their budgets. Employers made do with what they had on hand. As a result, we now see our Employers with very old fleets, ripe to purchase commercial motor vehicles when the tide comes in. And the tide seems to be coming in from our view point. One sign is the calls we get for Teamster CDL qualified truck drivers that we cannot fill instantly. We have to search to get them qualified candidates. This tells us that business is improving for our Employers. As the bottom line improves, they will start to make the necessary replacements to their aged fleets.

Let us make this Alternative Fuel Revolving Fund available to our private entities in the metropolitan areas stipulated in the Bill so that the private industries can take advantage of going green, going alternative fuel, when they make the decisions to upgrade their fleets. The citizens of Oregon will benefit from passage of this Bill.

Respectfully,



2/11/2014

Bill Elzie  
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